

- II. Claims 3, 4, 7-10, 12, 14, 16-47, and 49-50, drawn to a lid having a vacuum valve, classified in class 220, subclass 212.

The Examiner asserts that the relationship of the inventions is distinct since it can be shown that the inventions of Group II and Group I are related as combination and subcombination, and the subcombination has separate utility, citing as an example covering a container and allowing for stacking of multiple sealed containers and easy separation of the stacked containers due to air flow around the raised portions.

Election

Applicants hereby elect to proceed with the invention as defined in Group II, Claims 3, 4, 7-10, 12, 14, 16-47, and 49-50 of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in condition for examination. Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to the instant response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-Dec-03

By: _____


Stuart J. West

Reg. No. 43,258

FLIESLER DUBB MEYER & LOVEJOY LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone (415) 362-3800